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Security Council

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Identical letters dated 9 August 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I write to inform you of the Hamas terrorist organization's current attack against Israel.

Yesterday afternoon, Hamas snipers fired at Israeli civilians engaged in the construction of the barrier along the security fence. In response, the Israel Defense Forces targeted the Hamas outpost.

Hamas then escalated its attack by firing at least 180 rockets towards civilian communities in Israel, including the major population centre of Be'er Sheva', injuring at least 15 people. The towns surrounding the Gaza Strip have endured ongoing "red alert" sirens for imminent rocket attacks. In addition to these attacks, which have caused damage to factories and homes, Hamas rockets have also fallen on playgrounds, with children in close proximity.

In response to this unacceptable onslaught of violent attacks, the Israel Defense Forces have targeted Hamas terror sites in the Gaza Strip, including military compounds, among them rocket manufacturing facilities and a central logistical military complex. The Israel Defense Forces have also targeted an offensive terror tunnel shaft, two Hamas combat tunnels and a factory for terror tunnel parts.

Hamas is solely responsible for this assault. The terrorist organization has, once again, deprived the children of southern Israel of yet another summer. Israel will continue to take all necessary steps to prevent civilian casualties and protect its sovereignty.

I call upon the Security Council to condemn Hamas in the strongest terms for its indiscriminate attacks against innocent civilian populations, and to finally designate Hamas as a terrorist organization.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Danny **Danon**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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